IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION AND QUANTIFICATION OF PROTEINS, ISOFORMS OF ANGIOTENSIN I CONVERTING ENZYME (ACE) IN TISSUES, CELLS AND BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS~~ A method of identification and quantification of proteins, isoforms of angiotensin I converting (ACE) in tissues, cells and biological fluids ~~characterized by~~ comprising the following steps of:

(a) collecting an aliquot of fresh or concentrated biological fluids, cells or tissues of living organisms and submit them to analysis and separation by Western Blotting method;

(b) comparing the sample under analysis to the previous established standards for the hypertensive genetic markers and 65 kDa, isoforms of ACE 190 kDa, 90 kDa and 65 kDa [[.]], an aliquot of fluid (for example, fresh or concentrated urine) using, as analysis control, ACE isoforms prepared as standards and the ACE recombinant enzyme; and

(c) detecting the 190 kDa and 65 kDa isoforms in normal individuals and also detecting the presence of 90 kDa isoforms that is going to characterize those predisposed persons for developing hypertension and lesions in characteristic target organs.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the 90 kDa isoform, which was detected in step (c), is a hypertension genetic marker and ~~the~~ a prognostic agent for hypertension.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that chromatographic~~ wherein said separation of step (a) is processed AcA44 and/or AcA 34 resin[[;]], C-18 reverse phase column C- 18, mass spectrometer[[;]], and Western Blotting using a specific antibody against somatic ACE and against N-domain ACE [90 kDa and 65 kDa] of 190 kDa, 90 kDa and 65 kDa isoforms.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim[[s]] 1, ~~to 3 characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the biological fluid is urine.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim[[s]] 2 ~~1 to 4 characterized by the fact that~~ wherein it is detected in urine of normotensive individuals, two peaks with angiotensin I converting activity with 190kDa and 65kDa molecular weights.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized by the fact that it~~ wherein ~~it is used~~ ion exchange chromatography is used.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 4 ~~5 characterized by the fact that~~ wherein it is detected in hypertensive individual urine a profile where it was eluted two peaks with angiotensin I converting activity with 90 kDa and 65 kDa molecular weights, not being detected the 170 kDa form.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION OF THE POTENTIAL OF 90 KDA ISOFORM OF ANGIOTENSIN I CONVERTING ENZYME~~ A method of identification of the potential of 90 KDA isoform of angiotensin I converting enzyme ~~characterized by~~ comprising the following steps:

(a) concentrating and dialyzing ~~the~~ dialyzed urine with Tris-HCl 50 mM buffer, pH 8.0 and submit it to a gel filtration in AcA-34 column equilibrated with Tris-HCl 50mM buffer, containing NaCl 150 mM, pH 8.0;

(b) collecting 2 mL from the fractions and monitoring them through absorbance measurements at A280nm and by the converting activity of angiotensin I, using Hipuril-L-His-L-Leu-and Z-Phe-His-Leu as subtracts; and

(c) observing the presence of isoforms with ACE activity (170 kDa and 65 kDa) (n=21), from isoforms (170 kDa, 90 kDa and 65 kDa) with (n=13) as well as (90 kDa and 65 kDa) (n=13) isoforms.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the two isoforms with ACE activity (170 kDa and 65 kDa) (n=21) detected in the step (c) [[is]] are from normotensive individuals with normotensive parents.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the three isoforms (170 kDa, 90 kDa and 65 kDa) (n=13) detected in

step (c) come from normotensive individuals with hypertensive parents.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the two isoforms (90 kDa and 65 kDa) (n=13) detected in step (c) come from hypertensive individuals with hypertensive parents.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the 90 kDa isoform is a hypertension genetic marker and a prognostic agent for hypertension.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~HYPERTENSION GENETIC MOLECULAR MARKER BASED ON SAID GENETIC PROTEINS~~ A hypertension genetic molecular marker based on said genetic proteins obtained according to claim[[s]] 1, wherein ~~to 12 characterized by the fact that~~ it is the basis of the 90 kDa isoform.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~USE~~ Use of genetic marker obtained according to claim[[s]] 1, ~~to 12~~ wherein

~~characterized by the fact that~~ it is used as a prognostic agent of hypertension.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~USE~~ Use of genetic marker obtained according to claim[[s]] 1, ~~to 12 characterized by the fact that~~ wherein it is used in the diagnosis of the predisposition for the development of hypertension and lesions in characteristic target organs.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~USE~~ Use according to claim 15, wherein ~~characterized by the fact that~~ the target organs are the heart, nervous system, vascular system and kidney.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~ANALYTICAL METHOD FOR DIAGNOSIS, RISK STRATIFICATION, THERAPEUTICAL DECISION IN CARRIERS OF ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND RENAL LESION,~~ An analytical method for diagnosis, risk stratification, therapeutical decision in carriers of arterial hypertension and renal lesions ~~characterized by the fact that the~~ wherein the presence of ~~de~~ the 190 kDa and 65 kDa isoforms are detected in normal individuals, [[and also]] it is detected the 90 kDa isoform presence that is going to characterize those predisposed individuals to the

18. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 17, ~~characterized by the fact~~ wherein the 90 kDa isoform ~~detected in the step~~ is a genetic marker of hypertension and ~~the~~ a prognostic agent of hypertension.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~METHOD~~ A method according to claim 17, wherein ~~characterized by the fact that~~ the biological fluid is urine.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~KIT FOR DIAGNOSIS~~ A kit for diagnosis ~~characterized by the fact that it contains~~ further comprising the genetic marker obtained according to claim[[s]] 1. ~~to 12.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~KIT FOR DIAGNOSIS~~ A kit for diagnosis ~~characterized by the fact that it contains~~ further comprising [[the]] a genetic marker and [[the]] a prognostic agent of hypertension.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~KIT~~ A kit according to claim[[s]] 16, ~~and 17 characterized by the fact that it~~ wherein said kit is ~~to be~~ used in diagnosis, risk

stratification and therapeutical decision in the arterial hypertension.